



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

April 20, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Jerry King, Commissioner David Brown, Commissioner Jake Jakubek, Commissioner Ryan Jones, Vice-Chair Nathan Macek, Commissioner Stephen Klejst, Commissioner James Lewis, Councilman Timothy Lovain, Commissioner Christine Michaelis

Commissioner Absent: Councilman John Chapman

Staff Present: Patrick Reed - T&ES, Steve Sindiong -T&ES, Karen Callaham – T&ES, Mary Catherine Collins - P&Z, Lee Farmer – T&ES, Carrie Sanders – T&ES, Hillary Orr – T&ES, Ramond Robinson – T&ES, Raymond Mui - DASH

Chair Jerry King called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. March 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Chair Jerry King announced there would be a public hearing on agenda item number 5 and speaker forms are available for the public. He gave instructions for use of the speaker forms. He asked if there were any edits of the March 2016 minutes. Vice Chair Nathan Macek indicated on page 4 that public hearing speaker Dino Drudi's last name was misspelled. He also stated Mr. Drudi's comments should be edited to state projects like Royal Street are *not* welcomed by the people who live on those streets. There being no more edits, Commissioner Kleist made a motion to approve the minutes as revised. The motion seconded by Commissioner Brown, voted on and unanimously approved by the Commission.

2. Updates to Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received Funding and Project Updates on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station; the Route 1 Metroway; the King Street Metrorail Station; the Eisenhower Avenue Metrorail Station; the West End Transitway; the Motorcoach Task Force; the Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS); the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan; the Old Town North Small Area Plan; the Seminary Road / Quaker Lane Speed Limit Pilot Project; and the City Strategic Plan.

T&ES staff Carrie Sanders reported that the Arlington County portion of the Route 1 Metroway opened April 17, 2016 and that City Staff will be closely tracking that performance. She also stated

the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, and amendment to the City's Master Plan was adopted by City Council on April 16, 2016. Vice Chair Nathan Macek questioned at what point the City would request entry into federal Small Starts Project Development to initiate the City's grant funding request for the West End Transitway. Acting Deputy Director Sanders replied that a letter requesting entry into Project Development is currently being worked on and staff plans to apply for Small Starts funding in the next fiscal year. T&ES Transit Division Chief Ramond Robinson added that the application for Small Starts funding can be filed at any time. The plan is to file the request for entry into Small Starts Project Development following the completion of the Alternative Analysis/Environmental Documentation. Afterwards the goal is to work with the Federal Transit Administration to find out their opinion on how our project will fare and receive pointers on the City's request for a Small Starts Funding Agreement. In the meantime, staff will work to close out the current administrative phase while working with the City's Department of Project Implementation (DPI) to advance the project into the design phase.

Chair King asked if there were temporary locations for motorcoach parking since other locations have already been eliminated. T&ES staff Patrick Reed replied that the Robinson Terminal North spaces will be unavailable starting in June, but that the existing Masonic Memorial and St. Asaph Street locations are able to accommodate all motorcoach parking.

Chair King noted that the bike path at the north end of Old Town along the rail spur should be made wider once the railroad tracks are removed. T&ES Acting Transportation Planning Division Chief Steve Sindiong responded that it is being discussed as part of the Old Town North Small Area Plan. Vice Chair Macek asked if the OTAPS pilot program will be heard by the Transportation Commission and Traffic and Parking Board before being heard by City Council. Acting Deputy Director Sanders replied it will be heard by both bodies before being heard by Council.

Vice Chair Nathan Macek stated that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan as amended should be added to the second column of the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan worksheet staff distributed at the March 2016 meeting. He also stated the Commission's main charge is the Comprehensive Transportation Master Plan which is impacted by all the small area plans. He added he wanted to make sure the connection between the transportation portions of the small area plan's land use is added in the details.

3. Commission Updates

Chair King introduced Alan Dinsmore of the Commission on Aging. Mr. Dinsmore provided an overview to the Transportation Commission regarding concerns the Commission on Aging has regarding transportation issues of the elderly. He identified the issues of seniors and the necessary Complete Streets and budgetary actions needed. He stated that nationwide, approximately 8.5 million seniors depend on transportation provided by others. Data for Alexandria reflects the numbers of seniors asking for transportation is about 80 percent of the request we get for volunteers. A lot of these seniors have recently given up driving. They need social activities but never used public transportation, or ridden a bicycle recently Mr. Dinsmore indicated senior citizens are living healthier lives live longer and communities must adapt. The Commission on Aging is working on applying for the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities initiative. The initiative is an attempt to identify how a City would go about making City services friendlier to older people. Securing this designation would raise the profile of the issues of the elderly to those who are not aware.

Commissioner Jake Jakubek reported that Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) received an update that the speed reduction on Seminary and Quaker Lanes has been effective. The

Alexandria Police Department (APD) indicated they have written an ample amount of speeding tickets. However, APD has a shortage on officers for that duty. Mr. Sindiong indicated a letter to the Transportation Commission was received asking why the speed limit wasn't reduced on Quaker Lane north of King Street. He indicated that portion of Quaker Lane is partly in Arlington which has a speed limit of 30 miles per hour. The City had previously requested that Arlington lower the speed limit to 25 mph but was not successful. Two different speed limits cannot be used on the same street.

Commissioner James Lewis reported the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names has completed the public hearing process. Comments can still be made on the City's website.

Vice Chair Macek announced there are two vacancies on the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC). An EPC representative will be appointed to the Transportation Commission to fill the position vacated by Annika Moman.

4. Capital Bikeshare

T&ES staff Hillary Orr provided highlights of the City's Bikeshare Program. She stated that membership has increased by 40 percent since 2014. Trips have increased by 50 percent during the same period. The City's system is continually expanding. In summer 2016, Alexandria will be adding thirteen more stations for a total of 32. City Council approved CIP funding for the program up to 32 stations. Capital costs for expansion are comprised of federal grants and developer contributions. CMAQ funds allow for an average of 8 new stations per year from FY 2017 to FY 2022, totaling up to 75 stations.

Revenues and user fees have covered an average of 63 percent of operating costs, exceeding the initial goal of 30 percent. Funding to operate future stations beyond the programmed 32 must be considered through the FY 2018 budget process. The operating cost recovery is expected to decrease with the expansion of the system. The assumption of operating costs of \$10,000 per station per year is still anticipated for fiscal year 2017 despite the reduction in pricing. A new contract with the existing contractor provided a cost reduction of 25% from current pricing. Staff is working to secure private funds to operate the system through Transportation Management Programs (TMP's) and developer contributions as well as possible sponsorship opportunities to further reduce the cost to the City.

The Commission discussed that a number of health services have moved to the West End, and the need to start expanding there. In addition, the Rosemont station should be close to activity centers. Staff should also consider ways to improve marketing Capital Bikeshare. Staff will come back to the Transportation Commission in the fall, prior to presenting an update to Council.

5. FY 2017-26 Budget – Public Hearing

Councilman Lovain reported that staff posted its response on the City website to a question posed by City Council. The question was if the Council raised the tax rate a second and third cent, and spends on all of the tax toward capital, how citizens would recommend it be spent. Under the additional tax, the City Manager came up with a list of \$10.2 million dollars in capital spending for FY 2017 including \$2.7 million for transportation (\$730,000 in additional Complete Street funding, \$1.4 million in additional DASH purchases, \$570,000 additional street reconstruction and resurfacing plus funds for some non-transportation items).

T&ES Acting Deputy Director Carrie Sanders provided an overview of the key changes to the FY17

operating and capital budget. She stated that the preliminary add /delete budget discussion would be held during the Council Legislative meeting on April 26. The final add / delete budget would be a Council work session on May 2 with the adoption of the budget occurring on May 5.

Chair King called the public meeting to order. City resident Carol James stated at the Transportation Commission meeting in February 2016, the Chairman said there were plans to redo the I-395 underpass on Sanger at Van Dorn. Further inquiries regarding that statement turned up no plan. During City Council in March, staff stated this underpass has been discussed in meetings by the City with VDOT over the past five years and will be a continuing matter of discussion. That was in contradiction to what she was told during the Transportation Commission. The community is not getting the right information from anyone. Chair King reported a Sanger Avenue bridge project is on the Transportation Long Range Plan list. The cost is over \$5 million and funding has not been secured.

Chair King closed the public hearing. Vice Chair Macek made a motion for staff to compose a letter from the Commission to City Council addressing the following: 1) capital needs are important; 2) the City Manager's proposed approach includes a good balance between transportation and other needs; 3) encourage Council to increase the property tax by three cents; 4) all of the additional tax should go toward capital projects; 5) transportation projects should receive a fair share of the tax; 6) the Commission supports the concept provided by the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Stephen Klejst, voted on and unanimously approved.

6. Other Business

City Council passed a resolution for the establishment of the Eisenhower West/Landmark Implementation Advisory Group. A Transportation Commission representative is needed to serve on the group. Commissioner Jake Jakubek volunteered for the position.

The Transportation Commission retreat dates and times are being polled. The agenda will include a facilitator paid for by the Department.

Commissioner Michaelis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Vice Chair King, voted on and unanimously approved by the Commission. The meeting was closed at 8:50 p.m.